3t Mukherjea O. Y-4,5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1962
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either in her father's home or in her husband's. It may be that children may look after their widowed mother out of kindness and gratitude, but she has no rights recognised for her. But if she has no children, the only alternative is again the kindness of the members of her husband's family. If they are hard-hearted, she is thrown adrift in this wide world.

There were, however, signs of Santal public opinion asserting itself to ameliorate the condition of the widows. A section of Santal educated opinion recently wanted that the widow should have her rights of maintenance out of her late husband's properties, till she remarried. But tribal laws are hard and conservatism is deep-rooted.[1]

The ultimate result of the reformist moves can be gleaned from the Santal Parganas Enquiry Committee Report published in 1938. The committee (page 49) while discussing "Transfer by gift or will" notices that "there has been for many years a slow trend towards a change in the law which would give (Santal) women a recognised position. But there is no unanimity among the Santals on the point. The committee examined a number of witnesses on the point, among others, the President of the Santal

1. With acknowledgments to Rev. P. O. Bodding.